

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Texas Unemployment Rate 8.3 Percent in December

After two months of employment gains, Texas employers reduce jobs

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.3 percent in December, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, but continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December of 10.0 percent. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 23,900 jobs in December. Texas has gained nearly 50,000 jobs in the last three months.

“Texas continues to feel the effects of this serious national recession with unemployment in our state now at 8.3 percent,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Nonetheless, unemployment in Texas remains well below the national level of 10.0 percent.”

Education and Health Services employment increased by 4,800 positions in December, representing the addition of 60,400 jobs in the past 12 months. Mining and Logging employment posted a modest gain of 300 jobs in December.

“December job losses offset some of the gains from the last couple of months,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “TWC and the 28 workforce boards are committed to assisting Texas job seekers and connecting them with available jobs.”

Trade, Transportation and Utilities represented the bulk of December’s job losses at 7,400 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality employment was down 6,500 jobs in December, and Professional and Business Services recorded a loss of 5,300 jobs.

“Education and Health Services continued to add jobs while other industries experienced a tough month in December,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “Job seekers are encouraged to register on WorkInTexas.com, TWC’s online job matching Web site.”

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 5.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA and the Midland MSA, both with 5.4 percent. The unemployment rate stood at 5.9 percent in the College Station-Bryan MSA.

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Please note that the unemployment estimates for the United States and Texas in this chart are “Not Seasonally Adjusted” for purposes of comparison to the “Not Seasonally Adjusted” Metropolitan Statistical Area data.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas
Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

	December 2009				November 2009				December 2008			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
United States	152,693.0	137,953.0	14,740.0	9.7	153,539.0	139,132.0	14,407.0	9.4	154,349.0	143,350.0	10,999.0	7.1
State of Texas	12,078.7	11,115.7	963.0	8.0	12,101.2	11,148.9	952.3	7.9	11,788.7	11,120.8	667.9	5.7
Abilene	83.4	78.4	5.0	6.0	83.8	78.8	5.0	5.9	82.3	78.9	3.4	4.2
Amarillo	130.8	123.9	6.9	5.3	131.7	124.7	7.0	5.3	128.7	123.9	4.8	3.7
Austin-Round Rock	903.2	840.7	62.5	6.9	906.8	844.4	62.4	6.9	873.1	827.6	45.5	5.2
Beaumont-Port Arthur	183.2	163.6	19.6	10.7	183.4	164.4	19.0	10.4	181.3	166.9	14.4	7.9
Brownsville-Harlingen	151.5	134.7	16.8	11.1	151.2	135.3	15.9	10.5	146.6	134.6	12.0	8.2
College Station-Bryan	109.6	103.2	6.4	5.9	110.5	104.0	6.5	5.9	109.7	105.2	4.5	4.1
Corpus Christi	207.6	191.4	16.2	7.8	207.8	192.2	15.6	7.5	205.2	194.4	10.8	5.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	3,233.9	2,976.1	257.8	8.0	3,235.0	2,978.1	256.9	7.9	3,155.3	2,970.0	185.3	5.9
Dallas-Plano-Irving MD	2,153.7	1,982.2	171.5	8.0	2,153.5	1,982.6	170.9	7.9	2,109.3	1,983.2	126.1	6.0
Fort Worth-Arlington MD	1,080.2	993.9	86.3	8.0	1,081.6	995.6	86.0	7.9	1,046.0	986.8	59.2	5.7
El Paso	309.6	281.0	28.6	9.2	310.7	282.0	28.7	9.2	301.6	280.1	21.5	7.1
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	2,841.5	2,604.3	237.2	8.3	2,843.9	2,610.3	233.6	8.2	2,805.0	2,649.3	155.7	5.6
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood	162.7	151.3	11.4	7.0	163.2	151.8	11.4	7.0	159.8	151.0	8.8	5.5
Laredo	97.0	88.7	8.3	8.6	97.4	89.0	8.4	8.6	93.5	88.0	5.5	5.9
Longview	111.1	102.4	8.7	7.8	111.5	103.0	8.5	7.6	108.1	103.3	4.8	4.5
Lubbock	144.5	136.7	7.8	5.4	145.2	137.5	7.7	5.3	140.8	135.5	5.3	3.8
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	306.0	270.1	35.9	11.7	304.4	270.3	34.1	11.2	290.2	264.1	26.1	9.0
Midland	77.3	73.1	4.2	5.4	77.7	73.4	4.3	5.5	76.1	73.9	2.2	2.9
Odessa	75.3	69.0	6.3	8.3	75.7	69.3	6.4	8.4	72.2	69.5	2.7	3.8
San Angelo	53.5	50.2	3.3	6.3	53.8	50.4	3.4	6.4	52.8	50.4	2.4	4.5
San Antonio	971.2	904.7	66.5	6.8	974.5	908.6	65.9	6.8	948.6	898.2	50.4	5.3
Sherman-Denison	57.6	52.8	4.8	8.3	57.7	53.0	4.7	8.2	56.2	52.7	3.5	6.1
Texarkana	64.7	60.5	4.2	6.5	65.2	61.1	4.1	6.3	64.3	61.1	3.2	5.0
Tyler	102.3	94.1	8.2	8.0	102.6	94.5	8.1	7.9	99.8	94.3	5.5	5.5
Victoria	59.2	54.6	4.6	7.7	59.3	54.8	4.5	7.6	58.5	55.7	2.8	4.7
Waco	113.4	105.6	7.8	6.9	113.9	106.1	7.8	6.9	111.5	106.0	5.5	4.9
Wichita Falls	73.8	68.3	5.5	7.5	74.2	68.7	5.5	7.4	72.7	68.6	4.1	5.7

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Tom Pauken on latest labor market data are available at the following link:
<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2010/praudio10.html>.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.